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NBC

ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

• PROGRAM TITLE "FOREST RANGERS" (#139)

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WOFL
(12:30-1:30 PM)
TIME

(SEPTEMBER 27, 1935)
DATE

(FRIDAY)
DAY

• PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

• REMARKS

U. S. F. S. RECEIVED
PUBLIC RELATIONS
SEP 28 1935
FILE CLERK

ANNOUNCEMENT

Under Bush's Forest Rangers are charged with the protection, development and supervision of the use of the National Forests. They do not however carry out the functions of the local police or judicial officers. Some of their most delicate problems arise from the attempt of local residents to induce them to exercise police or judicial power in private disputes. This, of course, they cannot do. Recently commenting upon his inspection of the National Forests the Secretary of Agriculture said:

"The outstanding impression is my mind at the University of the Forest is correct. Everywhere the new forest ranger, local and all of them about the public interest as contrasted with the regional or private interests. Again and again I asked him to suppose that no more men had become filled with the necessary courage and intelligence to do for the long-time, general interest in the forest and the local and political interest.

With all their allegiance to the long time public interest the Forest Service can have been seriously hindered in dealing with the local conditions. They have courage in a long, low program of public and private work for the local people and the Forest Service.

The financial power of Forest managers and their supervisory is low. Their public service is long-term, and they are honest, and workers of responsibility in the field is high. I have been very much impressed by the intelligent public administration of the Forest Service and the way they will carry it in the future.

(1937)

ANNOUNCER CONT'D

Jim Robbins, the veteran forest ranger in charge of the Pine Cone District has had many experiences of this kind. He has frequently as a disinterested third party offered advice which has helped to patch up personal disputes but he has steadfastly refused to become a party to the controversies when national forest administration was not involved.

As we tune in at the Pine Cone Ranger Station we find Jim very much disturbed by a letter he has just received from his immediate superior, the Forest Supervisor.

JIM: Hmmm - Hmmm - Well, the dirtyascal.

JERRY: What's the matter Jim?

JIM: A letter from Supervisor Williams - says charges have been preferred against me.

JERRY: Charges against you? - What for? - Who's making 'em?

JIM: Stanley Bright.

JERRY: Stanley Bright? - Why what's the matter with him? - I thought he was a good friend of ours.

JIM:

Listen to this - This is a copy of Bright's letter. He makes a long rambling statement about the rights of the local settlers and ends up with this -

"Ranger Robbins is bent body and soul by the big interests. Anything the Winding Creek Lumber Company, or the Blackacre Company or the big sheep or cattle ranches want from him, they get, but whenever one of us settlers who is struggling to make a living in the National Forest wants anything we are told it is against the regulations. There are others besides me who have been turned down when we have asked for our rights and I demand, 1. That Mr. Robbins be removed from office, 2. That a full and impartial investigation of his office be made by somebody who won't just come out here and whitewash him, and 3. That a new ranger be put in charge of the Wind Creek District who won't have a lot of friends to play favorites to. I am writing to you Mr. Ellsworth as Supervisor of this Forest to give you a chance to do the right thing. If you do not take prompt action in this matter I shall be obliged to take the case up with higher authorities.

JERRY:

Well, can you look that up for Stanley Bright too? He's driving us crazy!

JIM:

Well, he don't mention it in his letter but I'm sure that he's been having with stars about the electric power line.

JERRY:

What now is that?

JIM: I guess I forgot to tell you. About a month ago Bright came to me and wanted me to order Starr to remove the power line from his homestead.

JERRY: But you couldn't do that - the Broadacres Company has a right-of-way.

JIM: Yeah, but he thought I could. He claimed he had a verbal agreement with Starr that the Company would furnish him electricity free of charge. The Company refuses to do it and Bright wanted me to force them to.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) (SARCASTICALLY) Fat chance of making that outfit do anything they don't have to.

JERRY: What are you going to do about it?

JIM: Well, it has always been my practice when I hear that anyone is dissatisfied with me to go and see him. So I'm going up to see Bright today, and I'm going to take you with me Jerry as a witness.

JERRY: You don't think Stanley will get hostile do you?

JIM: Oh no - nothing like that but I don't want any misunderstanding later about what is said so I want you to go along and pay strict attention to everything that is said.

JERRY: Are you going to take those charges with you? I'd make him prove every one of them.

JIM: I don't want any argument with him but I hope I can convince him he has made a mistake. Let's drive up in the pick-up

(FADEOUT - MUSIC - FADEIN)

(SOUND OF CAR RUNNING)

JIM: Ease up a little Jerry - You drive as if we were going to a fire.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Have to keep in practice you know.

JIM: Well, there's Bright's gate - you'll have to slow down for that. - Look out there -

JERRY: Don't need to - the gate's open -

JIM: Jerry, you're either the world's best or the world's worst driver. Nobody else could have made that turn.

JERRY: Yuh don't call this fast driving do yuh? Hope Stanley's home.

JIM: There he is out by the corral. See if you can stop without hitting it.

(CAR SLOWS DOWN - STOPS)

BRIGHT: (OFF) Howdy men - what's the matter - got a fire some place?

JIM: No, Jerry's just doing some fancy driving.

JERRY: Hello, Mr. Bright.

BRIGHT: (VERY FRIENDLY) Where d'yuh get that Mr. Bright stuff, Jerry? I'm always Stan to all my friends.

JERRY: Well, I didn't know whether we are in that class Stan.

BRIGHT: Oh shore now - yuh know I'm always with yuh 100 percent. Get out and come in.

JIM: No, we just drove over to see you for a minute.

BRIGHT: Well you may as well come in. I'm fixin' to brand a few calves. Then we'll have dinner after awhile.

JERRY: How's the Dude business Stan?

BRIGHT: Pretty slow right now. That cold rainy spell last week drove 'em all out. Expectin' a nice crowd out for the hunting season though.

JIM: (CLEARS THROAT) Well Stanley, what I came over to see you about -- I got a letter from the Supervisor this morning transmitting a copy of your charges against me.

BRIGHT: Oh, well now Jim you understand there ain't nothin' personal about it. You and me's always been good friends.

JIM: That's just the reason I can't understand those charges. Seems to me they are mighty personal. You accuse me of all kinds of skullduggery and demand my -

BRIGHT: You kin believe me Jim. - They ain't nothing personal about it - but you can see how I'm up against it here. This fellow Starr and his outfit can run right over me and I can't do a thing. They promised to furnish me free electricity if I'd give 'em a right of way for their line - now they won't do a thing about it.

JIM: So that's the basis for your charges -

BRIGHT: Well, there's other things too but I ain't sayin' what they are now - You ain't done the right thing by me - one word from you and the Company would have to put the lights in my house or move that line off'n my place.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well Stanley you're endowing me with all the powers of the Courts. If your right-of-way agreement calls for electric service the Court can compel them to give it to you -

BRIGHT: (ANGRILY) Don't talk about the courts to me - you know I can't law against that big outfit. They're just a bunch a crooks. - Starr and all the rest of 'em -

JERRY: Here comes Mr. Starr now -

BRIGHT: He better not come in here. I told him to get off my place and stay off and take his power line with 'im.

(CAR DRIVES UP AND STOPS)

STARR: (OFF) Hello men -

JIM: Hello Starr -

STARR: (COMING UP) I called the ranger station and your wife told me you were over here. I want to see you Jim about some -

BRIGHT: I thought I told you Starr to stay off my place -

STARR: Well, if you feel that way about it I will get off. Will you come over to camp Jim when you get through here?

JIM: Sure - might as well go over now.

BRIGHT: That's right! If the big outfit wants something you're right Johnny-on-the-spot but when one of us settlers wants something yuh can't do a thing -

JIM: Bright, can't you see that this is not a matter that I have a thing to do with? It's entirely a private matter between you and the company.

BRIGHT: Yeah a private matter, eh? But if I go out there and pull that power line over you'll be right on my neck as quick as anybody.

STARR: Let me warn you to stay away from that line. Why, man that line carries 22,000 volts - you fool with that and if you don't get killed you'll burn yourself out.

BRIGHT: Now you threaten me.

STARR: No sir, I'm not threatening you - I call these rangers to witness I haven't threatened you, I'm just warning you of danger on that right-of-way.

BRIGHT: That right-of-way is my land and I'm servin' notice on you to take your line off.

STARR: You forget Bright that we have a deed to that right-of-way and it's on record.

BRIGHT: You haven't paid for it and by thunder your contract's no good 'till you pay the consideration.

STARR: The Company stands ready to fulfill its contract any time you are ready to do your part.

BRIGHT: (SNEERING) Yeah, anytime I pay you \$5000 - can you beat that, Jim? - They come and take over my land and then demand I pay the \$5000.

JIM: Let me get the straight of this argument. You fellows seem to be going around in circles.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) I've been trying to make sense of it but it all sounds screwy to me -

BRIGHT: Well, there's nothing funny about it. I'm going to have my rights and I mean business.

STARR: Well, I'll tell you Jim what the deal was. I offered a cash settlement for the right of way but Bright wanted free service in all his building. I agreed to it on condition that he pay for his installation.

BRIGHT: Just a technicality tuh weasel out of it.

STARR: You can figure it out yourself Jim. That line carries 22,000 volts. To put service into his house we got to build a transformer station and step it down to a hundred and ten volts. It may cost all the way from three to five thousand dollars. The Company asked him to deposit the money before it does the work.

BRIGHT: This Company asks 3 to 5 thousand and it ain't worth \$50. They figure they can pull that racket and beat me out of it but they can't.

STARR: Well, I'm still authorized to make a cash settlement with you if you'll be reasonable. But we won't buy the ranch.

BRIGHT: Our bargain wasn't for cash - it was for electric lights an' that's what I'm goin' to have.

JIM: Why sure, why don't you fix him up Starr?

STARR: (SHARPLY) What d'ya mean?

JIM: Well, it's none of my business but if you're authorized to pay him off, why don't you buy him a lighting outfit of his own? Wouldn't cost any more'n the right-of-way is worth. You don't want to fool with that hot head Stanley. Why don't you let him put you in a nice little outfit of your own?

BRIGHT: Well he never offered to do anything like that.

STARR: I'm making you the offer right now, what d'yuh say?

BRIGHT: Well - I reckon that'd be all right if you'll put me in a first class outfit.

STARR: The best on the market.

JIM: You might even send over a couple of those electricians of yours some day when they're resting and have 'em wire his buildings for 'im eh?

STARR: Say, where do you come in on this business?

(JIM AND JERRY LAUGH)

JIM: Oh, I'm just an innocent by-stander. I'm getting some of the brick-bats from the fight but I don't have a thing to do with it.

STARR: (GOOD NATUREDLY) Well, all right, Jim, I'll do that too.

JIM: Well, what do you say Stanley?

BRIGHT: It's jake with me.

STARR: All right, let's all go over to my office and we'll fix the deal up.

BRIGHT: (CALLING) Hey you boys go ahead with that brandin' I got some business to 'tend to.

VOICES: (OFF) All right boss - Oh boss.

STARR: You can all ride in my car - come on get in -

JIM: Well after the ride Jerry gave me coming over - I think I'd rather trust my life with you.

BRIGHT: Yeah - me too.

JERRY: Well, I'll follow along with the pick up. You'll be glad to ride with me coming back. (CAR DOOR SLAMS) (SOUND OF STARTER AND MOTOR)

BRIGHT: (LOW VOICE) Now about that letter to the Supervisor Jim. I don't think -

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Go ahead - press your charges if you want to Stanley - I thought from the way that letter read, somebody might have a grievance against me.

BRIGHT: No Jim, I'm sure obliged to yuh -

STARR: I'm glad to get this business settled - I don't like to have trouble with anybody -

(FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER: Strange about us stubborn humans. Most of our disputes could easily be settled by sane and sensible compromises. It usually takes a level-headed third party to make the compromise suggestion attractive to both parties. The forest rangers are frequently called upon to play the role of peacemakers in private disputes.

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be with you again next Friday. This program was presented by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

er:9:50 AM
9-24-35

